

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-04 USIA-15

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7539

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 7542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, AU,SZ, SW, NO, FI

SUBJECT: SWITZERLAND AND IEP

REF: VIENNA 8148

1. AN OFFICER IN THE SWISS MISSION TO THE EC HAS TOLD US THAT THE ZURICH MEETING (REFTEL) BETWEEN SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA TO DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP REACHED NO DEFINITEVE DECISION. SWITZERLAND, TOGEHTER WITH SWEDEN, INDICATED AT THE MEETING THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY JOIN THE IEP AND WOULD MAKE STATEMENTS REAFFIRMING THEIR NEUTRALITY AT THE TIME THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, AUSTRIA APPEARS NOT YET READY TO PARTICIPATE.

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2. SIMILARLY, THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE EC INDICATED A CERTAIN RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE IEP AT A BRIDFING FOR EFTA MEMBER STATE AMBASSAODRS ON LAST WEEK'S ECG MEETING GIVERN BY NORWEGIAN AMBASSAODR BOYESEN ON SEPTEMBER 23. AT THAT BRIEFING, BOYESEN ALSO INDICATED HE WAS PESSIMISTIC REGARDING NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION AND REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF NORWEGIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM FURTHER WORK IN THE ECG. BOYESEN WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE IEP, ALTHOUGH HE STATED (WITHOUT SPECIFYING THE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION) HIS BELIEF THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT CAST A VETO IN ANY VOTE ON THE IEP IN THE OECD COUNCIL.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SWISS INFORMANT, AT THE SAME EFTA BRIEFING THE OTHER AMBASSADORS SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF THE FINNISH AMBASSAODR TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER FINLAND WAS UNDER ANY PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO VETO THE IEP AT THE OECD COUNCIL. THE FINNISH AMBASSADOR, SPEAKING CAREFULLY, REPORTED TO HIS COLLEAGUES THAT, ALTHOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING IN THE IEP, IT IS STUDYING THE PROGRAM CAREFULLY. HE INDICATED THAT FINLAND WOULD NOT CAST A VETO IN THE OECD COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH IT MAY ABSTAIN.

4. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT SWITZERLAND CLEARLY HAS A POLITICAL INTEREST IN BEING A "FOUNDING MEMBER" OF THE IEP AND THEREFORE HOPES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FROM ITS INCEPTIO. SWITZERLAND IS THERFORE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN THE DETAILS OF HOW AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE IEP WILL ENTER INTO FORCE. ALTHOUGH SWITZERLAND HAS BEEN PROVIDED ECG DOCUMENTS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN BRIDFINGS BY THE NORWEGIANS, THE SWISS AMBASSAODR TO THE EC HAD A SEPTEMBER 26 APPOINTMENT WITH DAVIGNON FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS AND RELATED POINTS. GREENWALD

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